

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-3, 5, 8, and 12-13 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A write protection method for an optical disc recording and/or reproducing apparatus, the method comprising:

checking write protection information stored in an RMD (Recording Management Data) field of an RMA (Recording management Management Area) area to protect data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing; and

prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium according to the write protection information,

wherein ~~the~~ a plurality of identical write protection information is ~~redundantly~~ stored in physically separate locations.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~recordable and/or rewritable~~ recording medium satisfying a DVD-R specification to record data, including an entire user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, comprising:

a Lead-in area;

a Lead-out area; and

the user data area;

wherein write protection state information is recorded and is selectable between write protection states, and upon completion of the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area ~~has been completed~~, the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing.

3. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 2~~1~~, wherein the recording

medium is a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

4. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 2, wherein the recording medium is a bare disc not contained in a case of a cartridge.

5. (Currently Amended) A write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, wherein a recording medium, including a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area and a user data area, has write protection state information that is selectable between write protection states, and the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of data, including ~~the~~an entirety of the user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing when the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, comprising:
checking the state of the recording medium; and
prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium when the state of the recording medium is a write protection state.

6. (Previously Presented) The write protection method of claim 5, wherein the recording medium is a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

7. (Previously Presented) The write protection method of claim 5, wherein the recording medium is positioned in a case of cartridge having a write inhibit hole for write protection.

8. (Currently Amended) A storage device comprising:
a recordable and/or rewritable recording medium including
a Lead-in area;
a Lead-out area; and
a user data area; and
a cartridge having a case which receives the recording medium;
wherein the recording medium has write protection state information that is selectable between write protection states, and the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of data, including the entire user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, when the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed.

9. (Previously Presented) The storage device of claim 8, wherein the case has a recognition switch for write protection.

10. (Previously Presented) The storage device of claim 8, wherein the case does not have a recognition switch for write protection.

11. (Previously Presented) The storage device of claim 8, wherein the recording medium is a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

12. (Currently Amended) A recordable and/or rewritable recording medium, comprising:
a Lead-in area;
a Lead-out area; and
a user data area,

wherein, upon a finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, with ~~the a~~ plurality of identical write protection information being ~~redundantly~~ stored in a plurality of locations in the Lead-in area, and wherein the recording medium is a recording medium satisfying a DVD-R and/or DVD-RW specification.

13. (Currently Amended) A recording medium to record data comprising:
a user data area; and
an information area having write protection information;

wherein the recording medium stores at least two write protection information in RMD (Recording Management Data) fields of an RMA (Recording management Management Area) area, at the same time, to protect the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing.

14. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium satisfies a DVD-RW (digital Versatile Disc Rewritable) specification

15. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the write protection information is stored in physically separate locations at a plurality of times.

16. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 15, wherein the recording medium indicates a write protection state when writing protection information from one of the plurality of physically separate locations matches writing protection information read from another one of the physically separate locations.

17. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium comprises a recording information area, distinct from the Lead-in area, the Lead-out area and the user data area, and including RMD fields, wherein the RMD fields store information indicative of pre-use certification and defect management in use.

18. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the RMD fields are grouped and the same write protection information is stored in the RMD fields belonging to the same group.

19. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the write protection information is stored in a byte position BP3 of RMD field 0, and information indicative of types of recording medium, indicating whether the recording medium satisfies the DVD-RW specification, is stored in byte positions BP0 and BP1 of the RMD field 0.

20. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium is a bare disc not contained in a case of a cartridge.